

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI  
*Office of the Governor*



May 13, 2016

TO THE MISSISSIPPI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE FOR HOUSE BILL 199

I am returning House Bill 199: "AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 25-927, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE THAT FOR A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS, THE PERSONNEL ACTIONS OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SUBJECT TO THE REGULATIONS OF THE STATE PERSONNEL BOARD SHALL BE EXEMPT FROM STATE PERSONNEL BOARD PROCEDURES, AND ALL EMPLOYEES OF THE AGENCY SHALL BE CLASSIFIED AS NONSTATE SERVICE DURING THAT PERIOD; TO AMEND SECTIONS 37-3-13, 37-3-25, 37-3-95, 37-13-80 AND 43-5-8, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, IN CONFORMITY THERETO; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES."

House Bill 199 would grant the Mississippi Department of Education an additional one-year exemption from Mississippi State Personnel Board purview. The Mississippi Department of Education was originally taken out from under the Mississippi State Personnel Board for a two-year period beginning on July 1, 2014. However, since becoming exempt from the rules of the Mississippi State Personnel Board, the Mississippi Department of Education appears to have increased the overall cost of its administrative functions through handsome raises for existing employees and high salaries for new employees.

Since July 1, 2014, the Mississippi Department of Education has awarded 331 increases in salary to 247 employees working within the agency. Some salary increases were \$20,000 or more. In addition to employee raises, the Mississippi Department of Education has made 203 new hires and has even set salaries as high as \$195,000, which is well over the statutory maximum. While I support additional flexibility for agencies to streamline services, I do not believe an additional year of these types of personnel decisions by the Mississippi Department of Education will yield cost savings and improved services for taxpayers.

Accordingly, I am vetoing House Bill 199.

Respectfully submitted,

PHIL BRYANT  
GOVERNOR

*May 13, 2016*  
*11:45 AM*